

Archeological Society of Virginia Massanutten Chapter

Volume 30, Issue 11

November 2009



POINTS



Old Point Comfort and Fort Algernoune

Submitted by Joe Sharrer

On October 17th the Hampton History Foundation and others sponsored a conference at The Chamberlin (now a retirement home of the first class) commemorating the 400th anniversary of the establishment of a modest fortification at what is now Fort Monroe.

Fort Algernoune was built October 1609 as a point of reference and rendezvous for ships engaged in trade with the newly established English Colony along the James. The structure was most probably mounded earth and sand atop which was planted a line of palisaded upright logs. Such a design would leave little in the way of posthole remains such as at James Fort since the structure would have been easily washed away by the hurricanes of that era.

Spanish ships, then the bane of the English colony, surveyed the fortification and deemed it too weak to be of any value or threat to a later assault on the colony if needed. Spanish intelligence assessments were that the English had made such a botch of colonization that failure of the colony was inevitable and did not need military intervention. In May 1610 the Fort welcomed the refugees from the Sea Venture bound from their shipwreck in Bermuda with a warning shot. The incoming vessel built in Bermuda identified itself and sailed up the James where a starving band awaited rescue.

Hampton and Fort Monroe have a long and interesting story to tell about The Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. It was at Hampton the Union General Butler first declared enslaved African Americans contraband of war and provided sanctuary to more than 10,000 there under the guns of Fort Monroe. Jefferson Davis was held there for two years for possible trial as a conspirator in the assassination of President Lincoln before charges were dropped.

Continued on Page 4

Inside this issue:

<i>Old Point Comfort and Fort Algernoune</i>	1 & 4
<i>2010 State and Chapter Dues</i>	2
<i>November Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Certification Program Opportunities</i>	3
<i>MCASV November Meeting Agenda</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

2010 State and Chapter Dues

Submitted by Tom Mizell

As 2010 has quickly arrived, we are gently reminded that "Dues for ASV are now due." Please check your records and start the New Year with a smile and show of support for both ASV and your local chapter. Annual Membership Renewal Dues are due January 31, 2010. Prompt remittance ensures that members continue to receive the Quarterly Bulletin and Newsletter. Other benefits include major discounts on all Society publications and participation in Society supervised archeological activities in the field.

There is a **Membership Renewal Form** that is included in the most recent ASV mailing and available on the ASV and MCASV website. The form has typically been available on the ASV website as well. You may submit the **form with payment** directly to Patrick O'Neill, ASV Secretary/Membership. Mr. O'Neill's address is provided at the end of this article. A second option is for you to submit both the Massanutten Chapter and State dues to me. I will be glad to forward the State dues to Mr. O'Neill for you. If you opt for this alternative please provide the completed **Membership Renewal Form** and the funds to me at your earliest convenience. I will have a stock of the forms available soon. Attached with the minutes is the **New MCASV Chapter Membership Application**. Please fill out and bring to the next meeting or when you pay dues.

Chapter Dues are \$5.00 and State dues vary as shown below:

Regular Membership Dues	\$25.00
Senior (65 and older)	\$20.00
Student	\$15.00
Life	\$350.00
Sustaining	\$50.00
Additional family members	\$ 2.00 (please provide their names)

For those opting to submit directly to Mr. O'Neill (ASV Secretary/Membership) his mailing address follows:

Patrick O'Neill
9902 Rand Drive
Burke, VA 22015
E-mail: patrickloneill@verizon.net

The Massanutten Chapter ASV appreciates your attention to this matter and we look forward to your participation in the life of our Chapter in 2010!

November Birthdays

Barry Click November 10

Please complete the MCASV Membership Application and submit to the MCASV Treasurer, so we have your birthdates for the newsletter.



Certification Program Opportunities

Submitted by Carole Nash

The following is information on upcoming certification opportunities:

Historic and Prehistoric Lab Work: Artifact processing and analysis from several 19th century historic home sites and prehistoric base camps. M, W, F schedule -- set your time! Contact Carole (432-6864 or nashcl@jmu.edu) for parking information and directions to her new JMU lab space.

****2009 Field School and Volunteer Opportunities****

There are a number of opportunities available throughout the state for Certification members and Chapter volunteers. Check out the MCASV website at www.mcasv.org for a full listing of the programs, their web-sites, and contact information.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Volunteer Program

Volunteer days can be arranged during the week for anyone interested. Prehistoric and historic artifact processing, cataloguing, data entry, documentary research, and outreach activities are some examples of what work is available. Please contact Chief Curator Dee DeRoche at dee.deroche@dhr.virginia.gov or (804) 367-2323 x134 for an application and to set up day(s) to volunteer if you are interested.

Other Opportunities

Mt. Vernon Field & Lab Work: Oct. 10, 24 & Nov. 14. Contact Curt Breckinridge at (703) 799-6303 or cbreckenridge@mountvernon.org.

Poplar Forest: Nov. 14-20. Contact Eric Proebsting at (434) 534-8102 for more information.

MCASV November 4, 2009 Meeting Agenda

The MCASV monthly meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. at the Bridgewater College.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| I. Call to Order | V. Treasurer's Report |
| II. Welcome to Guests | VI. Newsletter Editor's Report |
| III. Program: Tour of Reuel B. Pritchett Museum Bridgewater College Cole Hall Hosted by Archivist and Curator Dale Harter | VII. New Business |
| IV. Secretary's Report | VIII. Certification Program Report |
| | IX. Morris Pottery Kiln |
| | X. Announcements |

Upcoming Events

- Nov 4, 2009 MCASV Monthly Meeting, Bridgewater College Kline Campus Center, 7:00 p.m.
Program: Tour of Reuel B. Pritchett Museum Bridgewater College Cole Hall.
A link to Map and Directions are on the MCASV website under Calendar.
- Nov. 14-20, 2009 Poplar Forest Field School
- Dec 4, 2009 MCASV Annual Christmas Dinner, Bridgewater Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.
Silent Auction will follow after dinner.

Old Point Comfort and Fort Algernoune

Continued from Page 1

Hampton has a recently opened new museum possessing a significant collection of artifacts from both the prehistory and the historical period. This museum is well worth a visit.

Speakers at the conference included Bill Kelso of the Jamestown Discovery project, Ivor Noel Hume who spoke on both Forts Algernoune and Raleigh, and Camilla Townsend who spoke on the Spanish viewpoint towards English settlement. The Spanish did not want another pirate base on the Atlantic shore to prey upon their treasure fleets.

The final question is where is Fort Algernoune to be found? A clue lies in an ancient tree called the Algernoune oak, a live oak tree located on the parade ground at Fort Monroe. This tree has been dated to 480+ years ago and its ground surface at that time was six feet below the present surface of the parade area. To further complicate things the current water table is reached at three feet below present ground surface. Since the entire Fort, due to be decommissioned in 2011, is a registered National Historic Landmark the entire site is considered practically untouchable. The historic records are probably all that remains of Fort Algernoune. On another related subject, Ivor Noel Hume posited that the site currently shown on Roanoke Island as the remains of Fort Raleigh may in fact be the site of a costal artillery battery from about 1709. More work is scheduled there for the first week in November 2009.

Massanutten Chapter of the
Archeological Society of Virginia
P.O. Box 204
Bridgewater, VA 22812-0204



We're on the web
www.mcasv.org

We Need Your Help in Contributing Articles!

Your article could be here!

Please help by contributing articles each month.

The deadline for any information to be included in the newsletter will be the TWENTIETH of each month. Please have articles sent to Laura and Jeff by this time.

Your article could be here! Please email the Newsletter Editors at roderla@aol.com (Laura Roder) and atlatlist@comcast.net (Jeff Good) if you are submitting an article to the MCASV Newsletter.

